

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the final Office Action of September 28, 2010. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16 and 18-20 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention.

Re: Patentability of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-132624 by Tsurui (hereinafter, "Tsurui") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0146238 by Sugahara (hereinafter, "Sugahara"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended herein, recites:

"A method, comprising steps of:
enabling a user to select a recording title stored on a digital storage medium in a first program chain for password protection, said first program chain being a single program chain according to DVD specifications;
receiving a password from said user for said selected recording title;
storing said password for said selected recording title on said digital storage medium in said first program chain;
storing a password menu screen for said selected recording title on said digital storage medium in said first program chain; and
requiring said password to be input before playing back said selected recording title." (emphasis added)

As indicated above, amended claim 1 defines a method having features in which: (i) a user-selected recording title, (ii) a user-assigned password for protecting the selected recording title and (iii) a password menu screen for the selected recording title are all stored on a digital storage medium in a single program chain according to DVD specifications. Independent claims 8 and 16 are amended herein to recite subject matter similar to independent claim 1, albeit in different claim formats. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 8 and 16 may be found, for example, on page 11, lines 14-15 of Applicants' specification.

Neither Tsurui nor Sugahara, whether taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests, *inter alia*, the aforementioned claim features in which: (i) a user-selected recording title, (ii) a user-assigned password for protecting the selected recording title and (iii) a password menu screen for the selected recording title are all stored on a digital storage medium in a single program chain according to DVD specifications.

On page 4 of the final Office Action dated September 28, 2010 the Examiner admits that the primary reference, Tsurui, fails to disclose “storing both the selected recording title ... and the password in a single PGC.” Applicant agrees and further notes that Tsurui discloses a system in which password menu screens are stored in separate program chains (according to DVD specifications) from a corresponding recording title. In particular, paragraphs [0042]-[0046] and Drawing 5(b) of Tsurui make a clear distinction between program chains PGC#1-PGC#5 which are used to store data for password input screens 301-305 of Drawing 3, and program chain PGC#10 which is used to store the recording title protected by the password. Accordingly, Tsurui clearly teaches away from the desirability of the claimed solution in which: (i) a user-selected recording title, (ii) a user-assigned password for protecting the selected recording title and (iii) a password menu screen for the selected recording title are all stored on a digital storage medium in a single program chain according to DVD specifications.

The secondary reference, Sugahara, is unable to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies of Tsurui. In particular, Sugahara mentions nothing at all about, *inter alia*, password menu screens. Accordingly, Sugahara clearly fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the desirability of the claimed solution in which: (i) a user-selected recording title, (ii) a user-assigned password for protecting the selected recording title and (iii) a password menu screen for the selected recording title are all stored on a digital storage medium in a single program chain according to DVD specifications. As such, even if the teachings of Tsurui and Sugahara are combined, as proposed, the resulting combination still does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Therefore, in view of Tsurui and Sugahara's failure to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 8 and 16, these independent claims and their respective dependent claims are deemed non-obvious over the proposed combination of Tsurui and Sugahara, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments and accompanying amendments, the Applicants believe this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. Please charge the fee for the RCE to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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